

a magnanimous heart, a desire to excel and the fight in him to say to naysayers, "just watch me," Darrent took on the world.

As a senior high school player, he was named 7-4A Defensive Most Valuable Player. During his career at Oklahoma State University, where he received full scholarship, he tied for first place all-time Division I-A in career interception returns for touchdowns. In 2005 he was selected by the Denver Broncos as 2nd Round pick for starting Cornerback and Punt Returner.

At the age of 24, Darrent Williams' life was cut short. But through tragedy, a life-fulfilling purpose emerged. The Darrent Williams Foundation, which carries his namesake, will partner with a host of organizations to provide mentorship, counseling, tutoring, guidance, and athletic training and conditioning to youth ages 6 to 13. These services will be rendered with the overall goal to help ease life challenges and concerns regardless of ethnicity and socioeconomic background. As partners with Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), L. Clifford Davis and Morningside Elementary Schools have been chosen as inaugural recipients.

Today, I join with the entire city of Fort Worth community in recognizing Darrent Williams' life and legacy.

IN HONOR OF FATHER'S DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our Nation's fathers this Father's Day because they are the foundation of the family and heroes in the eyes of our Nation's children. Fathers are a vital part of the strength of the American family and I ask that my colleagues honor the fathers of our Nation on Sunday, June 15, 2008.

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide at different times of the year, but in America, we celebrate it on the third Sunday of June. Father's Day has a long history in the United States, although it was not officially recognized until the presidency of Richard Nixon. After the Civil War, the casualties were immeasurable and many women lost their fathers, husbands and family members. Two notable women, Sonora Smart Dodd of West Virginia and Grace Golden Clayton of Washington, acted upon their loss by encouraging their communities and states to commemorate the lives of their fathers. Sonora Smart Dodd, whose single-parent father raised 6 children before his death, was the first to propose such a celebration of fatherhood in 1909.

Father's Day is a time for Americans nationwide to show reverence and love for the father figures in their lives. It is also a time to pay tribute to those men who are single parents or guardians and still seem to be legends in their children's eyes. On June 15, I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to celebrate Father's Day.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss HR 6028, "The Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act of 2008." This bill would fund, train and equip Mexican security forces that would help prevent the trafficking of guns and drugs over the U.S.-Mexico border. I will vote for this bill, but I have some concerns about the Merida Initiative.

By supporting the Merida Initiative, the United States demonstrates its commitment to prevent the illegal importation of guns and drugs by partnering with Mexican and Central American governments. This initiative benefits the larger battle against organized crime, prevents drugs from hitting American cities and counties, and stymies gang violence from spilling over the border.

I believe that Congress must ensure our money is being used to prevent illegal materials from coming over the border. We have a responsibility to protect American citizens from drugs and violence. However, we also have a responsibility to make sure the money we appropriate for foreign governments is not directly or indirectly leading to human rights violations. Human rights abuses cannot and should not be perpetrated by personnel trained using American dollars. I applaud Chairman BERMAN and the Foreign Affairs Committee for placing restrictions on the uses of this money and firmly support investigations into reports of human right abuses in countries receiving Merida Initiative funding.

Human rights violations have been reported in Mexico but are insufficiently investigated. A constituent of mine, Brad Will, a journalist for the Downtown Express, was murdered while on assignment in Mexico. The suspected gunmen were local officials. Tragically, his family is still waiting for justice. While we must protect our own citizens from guns and drugs, we must exercise the necessary oversight to ensure that this funding is used appropriately.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF ELLA MAE GRATTS SHAMBLEE LIBRARY IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the grand opening of the Mrs. Ella Mae Gratts Shamblee Library in the city of Fort Worth, Texas. On Friday, June 13, 2008, elected officials, clergy, historians, stakeholders, residents and visitors will gather to celebrate this opening and the library named in her honor.

At a time when African-Americans were not allowed to sit in libraries or drink from "public"

water fountains, Mrs. Shamblee, the city's first African-American librarian, interceded and acted as an agent of change by providing books to those who otherwise may not have been able to visit the city's library. Mrs. Shamblee repeatedly carried boxes of books and rode on streetcars and buses to deliver them to the African-American community of South Fort Worth.

Through continued public service, Mrs. Shamblee became a pillar of the community and provided library services at establishments such as Stevens Grocery Store, a nursery school and the Federations Women's Club. Her enthusiasm in creating an atmosphere of education and knowledge resulted in her pioneering the library's bookmobile which was the forerunner of the city's branch libraries.

The Shamblee Library will serve as an epitome of advancements made in providing access to information to all residents in the city of Fort Worth, and particularly the Evans/Rosedale and Terrell Heights neighborhoods. Incorporated into the design of the historic Tommy Tucker building, the Shamblee Library is the cornerstone of the Eva & Rosedale Business and Cultural District and an edifice to the long-anticipated Southeast Fort Worth renaissance.

Today, I join with the entire city of Fort Worth community in recognizing the significance of this occasion and to pay tribute to the grand opening of the Ella Mae Gratts Shamblee Library.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR. JOE E. DANCY, SR.

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Father's Day, I wish to honor and recognize the life, legacy and ministry of the Reverend Dr. Joe E. Dancy, Sr., who currently serves as the pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Dr. Dancy was born on October 3, 1926 and is now 80 years old. Dr. Dancy has ten children, 56 grandchildren and over 100 great grandchildren and has been married for 63 years to Mrs. Vernia L. Dancy. On this Father's Day, I would like to salute him as the patriarch of the Dancy family, public servant to the people of Houston, and the presiding pastor at St. James Missionary Baptist Church.

Dr. Dancy has been preaching for 45 years and he has served the people of St. James for 41 years. In 1945, he began working for the City of Houston as a truck driver and he did not retire until 1978. During his 33 years with the City of Houston, he worked through the Civil Rights Movement, the Jim Crow era and the desegregation period. In addition, he worked as a community leader in Houston's Sunnyside community for over 60 years. Continuing his commitment to service, Dr. Dancy worked on community projects such as the Shutdown of the Sunnyside Incinerator, the community resistance movements against the expansions of numerous landfills that existed in Sunnyside, and most recently the fight against Southern Crushed Concrete. In a leadership capacity, he serves as a Chaplain for